

Great Britain Com. H. 17 *8223. 2/60*

REASONS

104
64.

Humbly offer'd to the Honourable House of Commons,
against a Duty intended to be laid upon Silks, Manufactured, Printed, or Stained, as far as it concerns Handkerchiefs.

SINCE the wearing *India Silks* and *Callicoes* Printed or Stained (whereof Handkerchiefs were a considerable part) has been restrained by an Act, made in the 11th Year of King *William the Third*, Intituled an Act for the more effectual employing the Poor, by encouraging the Manufactures of this Kingdom, &c. The Article of Handkerchiefs has been greatly improv'd, and at length rendered so good and cheap, that great Quantities have been, and daily are exported to Her Majesty's Dominions Abroad; which with the Home Consumption employs many Thousands of Her Majesty's Subjects, whose Dependance is wholly upon winding, weaving, and staining this Manufacture.

There is ground to believe some unfair Traders did, about three Years since, import large Quantities of Stained Handkerchiefs from *Holland*, in small Parcels, thereby defrauding Her Majesty of Her Customs, and injuring the Trade at Home: and yet by Industry and great Expence, the same Commodity has been since made here to an higher Perfection than those imported, and at so easie a Rate, as in great Measure to put a stop to that clandestine Trade.

However, should any Duty be laid upon the Commodity manufactured here, the Makers, who now sell for very small Profit, would be inevitably forced to desist, after they have brought it to such Perfection, as to supply at Home, and in several places Abroad, the vast Quantities formerly imported from *India*, *Persia*, and other Ports beyond the Seas. The Consequence whereof would be the utter Ruin of many Thousands of poor Work-men, and their Families.

Nor will the Mischief rest here, but 'tis to be feared it may cause the withdrawing of divers Persons employed in Printing and Staining, to *Holland* or elsewhere, and to have the Commodity clandestinely imported into *GREAT BRITAIN*, to the Prejudice of Her Majesties Customs, as well as to the Ruin of Her poor industrious Subjects, and the total Loss of a Manufacture so considerably advanced, and to which we were heretofore Strangers.

It may be further observed, that the Manufactured Silks used in this Commodity employ the poor upon their Importation, as the Woollen Manufactures do upon their Exportation; besides that great Part of the Silk, so used, is the Return of our Woollen Manufacture.

All which is humbly submitted to the Consideration of this Honourable House.

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